

examination. Treatment and often detention results; surely a lesson is taught. Thus is the machinery of the system set in motion.

But state and municipal laws are not as far advanced as the War Department's endeavors. Serious hampering results from the ancient false delicacy relating to the occurrence of venereal disease and its public suppression. State legislatures and public health councils, civil, professional, and social bodies must learn of the true condition of their communities and others; must know of the Army's efforts and object; must know and be powerful and sincere enough to apply the prevention.

The War Department learned well its lesson of the Mexican Border, of the experience of the allied and enemy armies on the continent where hundreds of thousands of troops are unfit because of this social poison. And in the full knowledge of this experience and learning, it has evolved this great movement to prevent infection.

A. D. H.

STORIES FROM THE DAY'S WORK.

Few things are so stimulating to health officers as to exchange stories from the day's work. Public health administration means more than preventive medicine, bacteriology, sanitary engineering and research; it involves also a knowledge of human nature. Many a health officer who knew public health from A to Z found difficulty in his work because he was not able to deal with men. The experiences of others along these lines are very helpful to every sanitarian, and for this reason the JOURNAL has a section entitled, "Stories from the Day's Work."

The *Bulletin* of the Louisiana State Health Department recently published a quotation running somewhat as follows: "If you have a dollar and I have a dollar, and we swap dollars, you and I still have a dollar each. But suppose that you have an idea and I have an idea, and we swap ideas. Now you and I each have two ideas."

Your contributions to this section are invited. The experiences may be about men or things, and should preferably range between 500 and 1,000 words in length.

SURGEON-GENERAL GORGAS REACHES THE RETIRING AGE.

The *Southern Medical Journal* reminds us that on October 3, 1918, Surgeon-General Gorgas will reach the retiring age, sixty-four years.

We are told that the Surgeon-General is in vigorous health. He is at his desk at the War Department at 8 or 8.30 in the morning, and he is one of the last to leave in the afternoon. He walks to and from his work, more than a mile every day, and in the Mills Building was in the habit of climbing up and down the seven flights of stairs several times a day, because he liked the exercise and did not want to wait for an elevator.

The high regard of the public health and medical professions for Surgeon-General Gorgas is well known. His achievements in cleaning up Panama and Havana, and, more recently, his efficient conversion of the Medical Department of the Army into a tremendous organization have stamped him as a man whom history will remember. The endorsement of Gorgas for a Nobel Prize by the American Public Health Association last year was a well-deserved tribute.

We hope that it will be possible to give the Nation the continued services of Surgeon-General Gorgas, at least during the remainder of the War.